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LETTER  
FROM A  
GENTLEMAN  
IN  
EDINBURGH  
TO HIS  
FRIEND  
IN  
LONDON,

Giving an Account of the present  
Proceedings against the Episcopal  
Clergy in *Scotland*, for using the  
*English* Lyturgy there.

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Printed in the YEAR MDCCXI.

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EDINBURGH

November the 19th 1711.

SIR,

**Y**OU obliged me extremely last Year, by the Account you sent me in your Letter Dated the Third of February 17<sup>12</sup><sub>11</sub>, of a Conversation betwixt some *Scots* and *English* Lords and Gentlemen, concerning Mr. *Greenshield's* Appeal, which was then depending in the House of Lords.

In return to so great a Favour, I think my self bound to give you an Account of what's remarkable in this Country, and not to detain you any longer with a Preamble, I shall in the first Place take Notice.

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That

That as the Issue of Mr. *Greenfield's* Appeal proved very agreeable to those of the Episcopal Persuasion, because for the future they expected to be delivered from the Tyranny and Oppression of the *Presbyterians*, and not to be Disturbed in their Worshipping of God after the Manner their Consciences did direct, that is, according to the *Liturgy of the Church of England*. So on the other Hand, it did very much exasperate the *Presbyterians* for these Reasons; *First*, Because they concluded a Stop was put to their Exercising a Dispotick, Arbitrary and Illegal Dominion over the Episcopal Clergy, by Imprisoning, Fining, and Banishing them, for no other Reason than their performing their Ministerial Offices to such of the People as earnestly Desired the same, and whose Consciences would not allow them to comply with those of the *Presbyterian* persuasion. *Secondly*, Because the Episcopal Ministers and Party behaved themselves Soberly and Discreetly under this Sunshine, and gave their Enemies no Occasion to mis-represent them.

But Matters went quietly enough on in all Places, the *Presbyterians* bore their Grudge as secretly, and the Church Party managed and improved their Affairs as prudently as possible, the Episcopal Clergy being invited by the latter, did accordingly erect a great many Meeting-houses in and about *Edinburgh*, and in most of the Towns on the North-side of the River *Ferth*, to which great Numbers of People resorted praising God for the happy Effect of the *Union*, that now they





they were allowed in Peace and without Danger to worship Him after the Manner which they believed Orthodox and Primitive; and during these last preceeding six Months, the Church Party in *Scotland* have enjoy'd more Ease and Security, than they have done for Twenty Years before.

But behold all of a suddain, and without any Reason why, the Case is altered, for no sooner did Sir *J—S—t* (about two Months ago) succeed Sir *D—D—le*, as Her M—y's Ad—te General, than he begun, as left off when formerly in that Station, to persecute the Episcopal Clergy with all the Violence in his Power.

Before I proceed to give you an Account of some Instances how he has begun to Oppress these poor People, it will not be amiss to say something more particular of this Gentleman's Life and Conversation.

You must know then, that Sir *J—S—t*'s Father was an Eminent Covenanter, and consequently a notable Rebel during the late *Rebellion*, and being Provost, or Mayor of *Edinburgh*, did direct the Execution of that Villanous Sentence, by which the great Marquess of *Montross* was Condemned to lose his Life for his Loyalty to King *Charles I.* The Son was educate in, and imbibed all the pernicious Rebellious Principles of his Father, and proved the chief Contriver and Promoter of Rebellion during *K. Cha. II's* Reign, which being at length discover'd, to save his Neck, he fled from this Island, and was afterwards Outlaw'd; but after *K. James's* Succession to the Throne he made his Peace, and became

came a Favorite upon the scandalous Terms of concurring with the *Popish* Ministry at that time, in their Design of introducing *Popery*, and did for that very Purpose Write and Publish a Book in Defence of the Kings rescinding by Virtue of his absolute Power and Authority all the Penal Laws against *Popery*, which was Learnedly Answered and Exposed by Monsieur *Fagel*, then Pensionary of *Holland*, both which Books are no doubt to be got at *London*; 'tis true, indeed, King *James's* Affairs no sooner declined, but Honest Sir *J—*, deserted him, and went over to the Prince of *Orange*, publickly valuing himself as the Author of that Book, and many pernicious Counsels given to and followed by King *James*, with a Design, as he said, to render him Odious to his Subjects, and introduce his Ruin; whether or not he had really this Design, I shall not take upon me to determine: But this I may say, That taking it as he would have it, tho' he may value himself as a good *Protestant*, such an Action will not intitle him to the Character of a good *Christian* in the Opinion of any Man, who has the least regard to Religion, Honour, or Morality, however for other good Services never yet made Publick, he was soon after the Revolution appointed K. *W—*'s Ad—te General, and continued in that Post till the Year 1709, when he was removed and succeeded by Sir *D—*  
*D——le.*

While Sir *J—* was Ad—te General, he on all Occasions persecuted the *Episcopal* Ministers; Imprisoning them and  
shutting

shutting up their Meeting Houses, and was indeed the Oracle of the *Presbyterians*, supporting and advising them in all Matters, and espousing their Interest against all Interests whatsoever. So that he was more properly Ad—te for the Kirk than the Crown, while Sir D— D—le was Ad—te, the Church Party had some Ease (tho' he was Whiggishly enough inclined too) but no sooner does Sir F—s again appear on the Stage, but he opens the same Scene of Oppression as formerly.

The turning out of Sir D—d and bringing in Sir F—s, hath afforded abundance of Speculation here, some tells us, That Sir D—d was turned out because he hath all along opposed the present Ministry, and because he had not Prosecuted the Faculty of Advocates for what they did with relation to the *Pretender's* Medal. These indeed are good Reasons for laying him aside, but not for advancing Sir F—s, for he likewise did oppose and let loose his Clergies Tongues against the Ministry, and if I ben't mistaken, one of their Reasons assigned for turning him out in the Year 1709, was, that he had not done his Duty in Prosecuting the *Stirling Shire* Gentlemen, when accused of being in Arms and ready to join the *Pretender*, a Crime of a more heinous Nature than what is laid to the Faculty of Advocates Charge; whether Sir F—s was truly Guilty, or even so much as Suspected by the Court of this last particular, I shall not say, but the Story was publickly reported and no Body here was surpris'd at it,  
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it being well known, that he hath frequently as Counsel taken Fees from both opposite Parties in a private civil Action, and must consequently have Betray'd either one or both of them, and who knew what he might have done in matters that concerned the Safety and Honour of his Queen and Mistress; others tell you Sir F——s was advanced by the Interest which Mr. *Carstairs* (Her Majesty's *Scots Presbyterian* Chaplain, who was formerly a Rebel and deeply concerned in the design'd Murther of King *Charles II.* as appears in the History of the *Rye-House Plot*) has obtain'd above with you at *London* where he has been for some Months, and still continues Resident for the *Scots Presbyterians*.

For my part I can't affirm, and I shan't pretend to say that any of these Reasons assigned is the true Cause of Sir F——s's Preferment, nor am I to pry into them; but this I may say, that from *Lands-End* to *Orkney*, a greater Enemy to the Church of *England* and the sacred Order of Episcopacy could not have been found, had all your *Calves-Head-Fests* and *Kit-Cat-Clubs*, and our Covenanted Conventicles been searched into for that Purpose, and that the Consequence of his Power must and will be Fatal to the Church Party in *Scotland*, unless Compassion stir up the Queen and their Brethren in *England*, to appear and exert themselves in behalf of Men Oppressed for no other Reason, than that they believe it their Duty to Worship God after the same manner that they do themselves.

But



But not to detain you any longer on this Subject, I shall proceed to acquaint you, how he hath behaved himself since he was last made Ad——e G——l and from thence you may form an Idea of what will happen, if he be allowed to go on; it is an Old Proverb, *That what is very Violent can't be lasting*, God grant it be True, for if he continue at the rate he has begun, there will be no living in this Country.

You must know, that Mr. *Patrick Dunbreck*, Domestick Chaplain to the Earl Marshal of *Scotland*, being invited by great Numbers of the Best and Richest Inhabitants of the Flourishing City of *Aberdeen*, to Read Prayers and Preach to them, did for that Purpose obtain the Use of the said Earl's House in that Town, and fitted up a Part thereof, for the decent and convenient Reception of such as were of the Episcopal Persuasion, and desired to Worship God according to the Form of the Church of *England*, to which great Numbers resorted.

This proved a shocking Eye-sore to the few, tho' extremely Bigotted *Presbyterians* in that Place, and resolving to endeavour by all means to crush the Undertaking in the Bud, had recourse to their trusty Friend Sir J——s St——t, for Advice and Assistance; and he concurring Heartily with their pious Design, did in the first Place Write an Honest and Charitable Letter (as he terms it) to Mr. *Dunbreck*, in which he Exhorts him to

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desist from his Undertaking, and not molest the Peace of the Established Church of *Scotland*: Asserting in his Letter, That Mr. *Dunbreck* had no right to Exercise any Part of the Ministerial Office, since he had received his Orders as Priest and Deacon from the deprived Bishop of *Murray*, who had no Power to confer the same. *Secondly*, That the Laws of *Scotland* did expressly discharge all Persons that were not of the *Presbyterian* Communion, to exercise any Part of the Ministerial Office. And *Thirdly*, That the Magistrates of *Aberdeen*, might legally punish him for the Breach of these Laws, and he concludes by requiring him to desist from presuming thus Illegally and Irregularly to disturb the Peace of the Place. Sir J——s having thus broke the Ice, the Magistrates likewise ordered Mr. *Dunbreck* to appear before them, and insisted on the same Topicks contained in Sir J——s's Letter.

But Mr. *Dunbreck* resolving to stand his Ground, answered Sir J——s and the Magistrates, That the Peace of the Place was in no Hazard, since he was invited to read Prayers and Preach by the best and greatest Part of the Inhabitants, that he was directed to repair thither by the Bishop of *Aberdeen*, whose Authority he owned, and being Chaplain to the Earl Marshal, he was in his Duty when he read Prayers in the said Earl's House, nay, had Liberty to do the same in any part of the Kingdom: That if there was any Law against the Validity of

a Bishop's Ordination, or against erecting of Episcopal Meeting Houses, or Reading the Prayers of the Church of *England*, he desired they would condescend upon them; for his part he knew of none, and had reason to think there was none, since the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of *Great Britain*, in Parliament Assembled, declared the same, when Mr. *Greenshields's* Appeal was under the Consideration of that House, and that therefore he was resolved, so long as he had the Honour to be the Earl Marshal's Chaplain to read Prayers and Preach in his Lordship's House to such as desired to join in Worship with him.

But these Answers not being sufficient to allay the violent Temper of this Party, the Presbytery of *Aberdeen*, in a few Days thereafter, summoned him to appear before them, as being Guilty of erecting a Meeting-House, and using Innovations in Worship (as they term the *English* Service) never allowed of in this National Church: if the said Presbytery hath not as yet proceeded to silence him by a Sentence, it must proceed from some other Reason, than want of Inclination to do it.

If it was needful, I cou'd add many Remarks on this Case, but I shall only observe, *First*, That Her M<sup>y</sup>'s Ad<sup>te</sup> General presumes to declare, there is a standing Law against Episcopal Meeting Houses and Reading the Church of *England* Prayers,

may, requires (which must be as a publick Minister) Mr. *Dunbreck* to desist from his Undertaking, which he asserts is Illegal and Irregular, tho' the House of Lords in Mr. *Greenfields's* Case had found and expressly Declared the Contrary; our Parliament of *Scotland* would have look'd upon such Proceedings as an high Indignity, how your House of Lords may resent them, I can't tell. Secondly, That the Ad——te, the Magistrates and Presbyters of *Aberdeen*, have had no regard to the Earl Marshal's Priviledge, as a Peer of *Great Britain*, having summoned his Domestick Chaplain to appear before them for Officiating as such in his Lordship's House.

This Instance alone is sufficient to manifest Sir J——s, and the Parties Designs, and therefore I need not mention any more, but only in general acquaint you, that all the Episcopal Ministers and Meeting Houses, are to be treated after the same manner; particularly, the Two Mr. *Murrays* in *Perth*, Mr. *Honyman* in *Crail*, Doctor *Waddel* in *St. Andrews*, and Mr. *Lyon* in *Orkney*: Nay, Sir J——s St——t has proceeded so far, as upon the Fourth Instant to require the Lord Provost of *Edinburgh* to shut up all the Meeting Houses in *Edinburgh*, especially such where the *English* Prayers were read, which the Provost boldly and honestly refused, unless he had the Queen's particular Commands for it,

I have heard that Sir J——s defends himself by alleadging, he insists against none of the Episcopal Clergy that pray for, or have taken the Oaths to the Queen, as to which I answer, That there is no Law requiring either, tho' I'm far from Justifying such as do not pray for Her Majesty: But the Fact is not as Sir J——s represents it, for I do assert, That several of those above-mentioned Episcopal Ministers do pray for the Queen, and it can never be thought that this Measure proceeds from Sir J——s's Zeal for the Queen; since he and all the Nation knows that many of the *Presbyterian* Ministers (who are in the actual Possession of the legal Benefices) do not pray for the Queen, and few or none of them have taken the Oaths required by Law; and it's strange that he sees no reason to insist against such, tho' they daily in their Sermons assert the Doctrine of Resisting the Supreme Magistrate, and the Intrinsic Power of the Kirk, so that his Partiality to the One, and Severity to the Other, is a plain Proof, that there's something in his View besides the Queen's Service, and it is as plain, this can be nothing else, than the Destruction of all who adhere to the Principles of the Church of *England*.

Did these Violent Courses proceed from his Hot-headed Bigotted Teachers, they might be Accompted for; but that Her M——y's Ad——te General should be the *Origo Mali*, the Author and Promoter of them, is very Surprising, and is attended with the following



lowing bad Consequences. *First*, It induces many who are not well Vers'd in the Politicks (of which there can't be a few in this Country Situated at such a Distance from Court) erroneously to conclude and believe that Her M——y's Ad——te General would not dare presume so far, unless he were encouraged, or at least allowed to do so by the Q——n and her M——y. *Secondly*, It prompts and excites the Mad Extravagant *Presbyterian* Mob to commit Insolencies on the Church Party, of which, I shall give you but one Instance in place of many others I could mention. On the First Day of this present *November*, The Earl of *Carnwath* received a Letter at his Country House in the Shire of *Dumfrees*, from the Heads and Leaders of that Violent Enthusiastick Set of *Presbyterians* call'd *Cameronians*, intimating, That if his Lordship did not put away Mr. *Irving* his Chaplain, and leave off having the *English* Service perform'd in his House, they'd come and Burn him, his Lady, Family and House. This is an extraordinary Insult upon a Person of his Worth and Quality, and I need make no Inferences from it.

But I must add, It is no great Wonder the Mob is Excited to such Extravagancies, for Sir J——s St—— is not the only Person that encourages them by Doctrine and Example, some even of our Judges having of late publickly advanced Rebellious Tenets and perverted the Laws in Favour of the Good Old Cause of which take this Instance



stance, Sir G—t E—t, one of the Lords of Session and Justiciary, that is, Judge of our Lives and Fortunes, sitting in Judgment in one of the Circuit Courts held at *Stirling*, did in presence of Hundreds of People applaud the open Rebellion at *Bothwell-Bridge*, against K. *Charles II.* of Blessed Memory, in these Words; *It was a noble and laudable Action, and those that were in Arms against K. Charles II. at Bothwell-Bridge, did good Service to their Country, and deserved Thanks for that good Service*; Tho' these Rebels are Indemnified by Acts of Parliament, or other Indemnities: Yet Rebellion is still Rebellion, and no Person, far less a Judge, should Justifie or Applaud it, and such Maxims advanced by Judges from the Bench, may be reckoned by the Multitude as an Invitation to Rebel by Authority.

I have no mind to leave this Judge so soon, and therefore, I must inform you of a notable Instance of his Justice, at a Circuit Court held at *Aberdeen*; Mr. *Hay* an Episcopal Minister, was brought before him and Accused of having Christened some Children, Counsel was heard and Witnesses adduced, and the Jury being enclosed, brought him in not Guilty, This so enraged this Judge, that he treated the Fore-man very severely, and ordered him to call the Jury together again; which being done, about an Hour thereafter (the several Persons of which the Jury consisted having left the Court and been dispersed through the Town) he told them they had Acted unwarrantably

unwarrantably and commanded them to enclose themselves again, and bring Mr. Hay in Guilty, or he would send them all to Prison, which so terrified the poor Jury, that they obey'd him, and he immediately pronounced Sentence, Banishing Mr. Hay out of the Kingdom of *Great Britain*. Now Sir, If this be past over, what is the Use of Laws? What Security in a Jury, and how obnoxious are Mens Lives and Fortunes to the Arbitrary Will and Pleasure of a Factious, Furious, and Revengetul Judge.

But that I may draw to a close, Let me observe, what a miserable Condition the Church Party in *Scotland* are thus reduced to, and I'll answer for it; all the Facts I have related are literally True. Allow me then to expostulate a little with you, and ask you a few Questions.

In the Name of God whence does it proceed, that such Measures are ventured upon and connived at?

Is the Q— what she professeth, a true Daughter as well as Mother of the Church of *England*, and Defender of her Faith, and will any of her Servants pass unpunish'd that presume to treat after such a manner, any of her Subjects for believing as she does?

Does the present M———y remember that the *Presbyterians* in *Scotland* opposed them from the beginning, and continues to oppose

oppose them still; their Clergy in their Pulpits having accused them of being Enemies to the Country, and continuing to roar against them and the designed Peace? And will the M——y support them, nay suffer them to run down the Church Party, who join'd Heartily with Her M——y and her M——y's measures, and did signal Service both at the time of Elections and since in Parliament.

Does the M——y know, that the *Presbyterians* in *Scotland* bear no proportion to the Church Party in Number, Wealth, or Power? If they don't, let them but consider the Principles of the *Scots* Members in both Houses, and that will lead them to make a judgment of the Principles of the Country in general! And will they suffer those, who on all occasions prove their Friends, and are capable and willing to serve them, to be thus oppress'd by a Set of Men, who by their Nature and Principles would see all Crown'd Heads, and all who adhere to them, at the Devil; and in whose power it is not, to create any Disturbance in the Country?

Have the Worthy Patriots and Clergy of the Church of *England* any compassion towards their afflicted Brethren? Will they exert themselves to exalt the Church of *England* in one part of the Island, and suffer her to be wholly extirpate and extinguished in the other? Do they know that the *Scots Presbyterian* Ministers assert the Obligations

tions of the Solemn League and Covenant to be still binding; and engage Parents at the Christening of their Children, in place of the Apostolical Creed, to adhere to it, and educate their Children in that Principle; and that by the said Covenant they are obliged to endeavour the Extirpation of Prelacy in *England*? Do they know that the *Presbyterian* Ministers in their Publick Prayers beg, That God would bring down that Idolatrous Superstitious Whore of *Babylon*, the Church of *England*, and rank her in the Class of *Jews, Turks, Papists*, and other Infidels and Sectaries, whom they pray the Lord to convert, or confound? Do they remember the Behaviour of the *Scots Presbyterian* Members Last Parliament?

Are these things, I say, remembred and known, and will they suffer such a Power to be rampant? A Power which as it at present oppresses and crushes their Friends and Brethren in *Scotland*, may in time prove once more fatal to themselves in *England*.

If you answer these Questions in the Affirmative, it will amaze and confound me; for to me they appear plain Paradoxes: And therefore I will believe, at least hope, That our Gracions and Pious Q---, her Wife M---y, and the Worthy Patriots of the Church of *England*, will in the next Session of Parliament effectually provide for the Security and Protection of the Oppressed and Distressed Episcopal Clergy and Church Party in *Scotland*, and think it reasonable to call the Ad---te General and the above mentioned Judge to account for their illegal and unwarrantable Proceedings. And



And that Religion, Generosity, and Compassion may produce those good Effects, is the earnest Wish of all Good Men, and of no Person more than of

*Your most Humble Servant.*

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## POSTSCRIPT.

Since I Wrote this Letter, I have been told a very Comical Story, and I beg you wou'd enquire what Truth is in it. My Author assures me, that I may believe it, but I wou'd be glad to have it Confirm'd by so good a Hand as yours. The Story then is as follows, That our Scots Presbyterian Clergy, being very uneasy at the Thoughts that the Chaplains of the English Regiments now in Scotland, might repair thither and read Prayers to the Soldiers, and the Officers of these Regiments being as Uneasy, that the Kirk Judicatories did Plague and Harraßs their Men, because they sometimes Kiss'd a bonny Lass, as they alledged: within these few Weeks M. G——l W——n and Mr. Car——rs, clap'd up a Treaty of Peace at London, betwixt the Armies and Kirk, whither there were any Preliminary Articles in Favour of the Generals, Allies, and Friends under the same Circumstances, I know not. But no doubt Mr. Car——rs (who has as much to say with his Brethren, as the French King has with King Philip, Bavaria, &c.) will accomodate



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## Postscript to the Letter, &c.

accommodate Matters in the same Term, with the other English Officers, as he has done with the General, which are, that the General shall not send his Chaplain to attend and read Prayers to his Regiment; and that the Kirk shall not trouble any Person in his Regiment on the account of Fornication. This Concession of Mr. Carrs, is a plain Proof, that he's as apprehensive of the Success of the English Liturgy in Scotland, as the French King is of the Arms of the Allies. And if the Patriots of the Church of England, had not been as Negligent in improving the many good Occasions, that have been offered of advancing and promoting that Church's Interest in Scotland, as most of the Clergy have been in reducing France. And if some of the most considerable of these Patriots were not as selfish, and had not as many By-views, as some of our Allies stand accused of; I say, were it not so, the G——l were as much to be Blam'd, as Her M—— to think of an Accomodation. But as Matters stand, must the General ruin his Regiment, and expose his Men to the Temptation of Deserting, rather than submit to the Kirk's Censures. And had he not better agree to these Terms, since the Effects must be, that he will soon and without Expence, get a good Number of Lusty Healthy Young Fellows to List with him, and so make a very fine Regiment?

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